

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

/081 W

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R 101210Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBAYFY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4731

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDOMA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, SF, F

ABOLITION OF RESTRICTIONS ON BURUNDI TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA

DURING LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY, WHILE IN PROCESS OF STARTING
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL AND CANCELLING RESTRICTIONS ON
ECONOMIC DEALINGS BETWEEN BURUNDI AND PORTUGAL, BURUNDI GOVERNMENT
IN SAME ORDINANCE ALSO QUIETLY ABOLISHED ALL PROHIBITION ON
COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL, AND TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS WITH SOUTH
AFRICA. MOVE HAD LONG BEEN URGED BY ECONOMIC MINISTERS, WHO SAW
NO REASON FOR BURUNDI TO MAKE SACRIFICES, WHEN SUCH NEARBY STATES
AS KENYA AND ZAIRE ALLOWED LINKS TO SOUTH AFRICA, BUT HAD BEEN
OPPOSED BY FORMER FONMIN SIMBANANIYE.

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MAIN IMMEDIATE MOTIVATION APPARENTLY IS TO ARRANGE FOR ONWARD
FLIGHTS TO JOHANNESBURG BY
EUROPEAN AIRLINES FROM BUJUMBURA. SABENA, UNDER BILATERAL
ACCORD, MAY, IN THEORY, ALREADY HAVE EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO THIS
ROUTE, BUT BURUNDI AUTHORITIES CLEARLY WANT TO ENLARG
OPTIONS. ALITALIA HAS REPORTEDLY APPLIED FOR
AUTHORIZATION, AND IT IS THOUGHT THAT
IT MIGHT WANT TO SHIFT ONE OR TWO FLIGHTS PER WEEK, NOW
TERMINATING IN LUSAKA, TO NEW SOUTH AFRICAN RUN. WITH
ITALIANS IN GOOD GRACES OF REGIME HERE, OWING TO ITALIAN
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY AND PROSPECTIVE MANAGEMENT
OF NEW BUJUMBURA HOTEL BY ALITALIA SUBSIDIARY, AERHOTEL,
THERE IS GOOD CHANCE THAT ALITALIA WILL GET OKAY.
MEANWHILE, ON COMMERCIAL FRONT, VARIOUS IMPORTERS ARE CONSIDERING
POSSIBILITIES OF ORDERING NOT ONLY FOODSTUFFS AND
OTHER CONSUMER GOODS, BUT ALSO CEMENT, WHICH IS NOW ALMOST
UNOBTAINABLE IN BUJUMBURA.
MARK

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